

De Borchgrave, correspondent: The last world 'soldier'

By Douglas Martin

RNAUD DE BORCHGRAVE has earned his worldweary smile. As chief foreign correspondent for Newsweek he has covered 17 wars, suffered 3 combat wounds, and slept on more airport floors than he cares to remember.

He has built a global reputation by filing dispatches from more than 80 countries and hounding scores of world leaders into giving exclusive interviews. He claims his talks with Mideastern leaders have narrowed the gaping differences between Israel and Arab nations, hastening the cause of peace. And he matter-of-factly discloses that former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is in the habit of calling across the Atlantic to ask his opinion on assorted interna-

No wonder the elegantly tailored native of Belgium ("he dresses better than most foreign ministers," a friend says) can't dispute Edward A. Kosner, editor of New York magazine and former editor of Newsweek, who calls him a "world-class correspondent." Or Osborn Elliott, another former Newsweek top editor, who says, "I don't see any others around doing what he's doing."

"I'M PART OF a dying breed," says De Borchgrave, 53, whose flair for the dramatic shows up in flamboyant expositions of bravery (upon returning from one of his seven tours of duty in Viet Nam, he eagerly displayed a bullet-riddled helmet to colleagues in Newsweek's Madison Avenue headquarters), and the care with which he maintains his handsome suntan. (He is said to carry a sun reflector and an assortment of lotions wherever he travels.)

Inevitably, this dapper chap with the ramrod posture and precise articulation has assumed the quality of a legend in certain journalistic quarters. New York Times executive editor A.M. Rosenthal, for instance, calls him "extremely

"Maybe the great foreign correspondents are like great mors," Kosner muses. "You only need one every 20 tenors," Kosner muses. "You only need one every 20 years." As if to underline this point, Esquire magazine is preparing a major article on De Borchgrave tentatively titled "The Last Foreign Correspondent."

The man's uniqueness is apparent from that title. At a time when first-class travel and unlimited expense accounts are merely a memory to most journalists, the self-described "lone-wolf operator" has a virtually unlimited franchise to fly anywhere in search of a big international story. Seldom is he asked to send New York those mountainous memos of mostly unused detail that are the endless bane of the news-

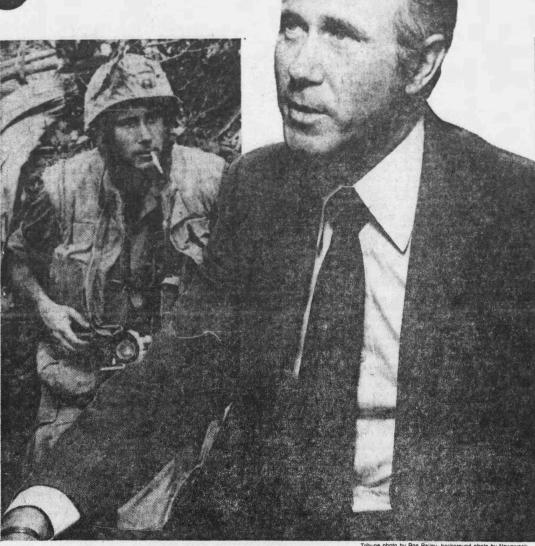
magazine reporter's life.

"They've let me do my own thing, call my own shots,"
De Borchgrave says. "And that's why so many people in
this business say I've got the best job in the business. And,
frankly, I think I do."

DESPITE OCCASIONAL attempts by Time magazine (which De Borchgrave dismisses as "Brand X"), it isn't a job that is likely to be duplicated. Indeed, there exists evidence that the traveled, timeworn species called foreign correspondent — renowned for striding through the Paris fog or a chilly Moscow night to interview yet another world leader or shadowy spy - is itself gradually disappearing.

Though recent statistics aren't available, the number of full-time American media representatives abroad dropped from 929 to 676 during the first half of the 1970s. In Chicago, the widely respected Daily News foreign service bit the dust in 1976, two years before the death of the news-paper; its demise left The Tribune the only local paper with its own regular foreign correspondents.

In large measure, the diminished number of overseas news sleuths reflects runaway costs. Time estimates it will spend an average of \$200,000 this year to maintain each of its 34 foreign correspondents, a 245 per cent increase from



Flamboyant foreign correspondent Arnaud de Borchgrave has a habit of turning up in the most dangerous spots.

·10 years ago. The Los Angeles Times figures its annual cost at \$150,000 a year, up from about \$40,000 15 years ago. Of course, the public's recent fascination with events in Iran and Afghanistan could prompt news executives to disre-2

gard soaring expenses, and indeed, television already is expanding its coverage of overseas developments; witness ABC's popular nightly report on the Iranian hostage crisis. The demands of cable television and other emerging video markets also may spark a larger appetite for documentaries about foreign subjects.

BUT THERE IS scant doubt that the dashing, heroic foreign correspondent is fast fading in this McLuhanesque era of cool professionalism. Almost gone are the real-life examples of the character played by Joel McCrea in Alfred Hitchcock's movie "Foreign Correspondent" - those trenchcoated types with the beautiful blond in tow who bravely smash enemy spy rings, saving the free world.

In part, changes in family life have sapped enthusiasm for overseas assignments. Maynard Parker, Newsweek executive editor, says that because of the increase in two-career families, "Fewer people are willing to become expatriates."

And perhaps more important, the post-Watergate rage for investigative reporting has made staying at home more pro-

fessionally alluring...
"People go over three or four years, and then they're dying to come back to this country to become Woodward and Bernstein," says De Borchgrave, who contends that years of

assiduous work (33 in his case) are needed to develop useful foreign contacts.

"They want to come back to where the action is, and the action is in the United States and in exposing skeletons in people's closets," he says. "Not only is that more fun, it's the shortcut to success."

ANOTHER SHORTCUT to success is to be born a count. De Borchgrave, who is fluent in five languages, was born into the glittery world of European royalty. His full name and title: Arnaud Paul Charles Marie-Philippe Comte de

Borchgrave d'Altena, Comte du Saint Empire, Baron d'Elde-ren, Seigneur de Bovelingen de Marlinne, et d'autres lieux. His irreverant Newsweek colleagues conveniently shortened this appellation to "the short count," in reference to his less than awesome height. They persist in the nickname, despite the fact that he long ago renounced his title to become an

American citizen. He also has taken considerable ribbing for his penchant of turning up in dangerous spots wearing the combat fatigues of some army or other. Elliott once called him "Mr. Hot Shot White Silk Scarf" after a particularly perilous mission in Viet Nam — an on-the-scene account of the vicious battle for Hill 400 near the Demilitarized Zone.

The dangers often have been real. For example, in 1973, De Borchgrave journeyed to the front lines with an

Continued on following page

Tempo



Arnaud de Borchgrave has covered more than share of wars, and the one in Viet Nam earned i this shrapnel-pocked helmet,

News for you

No more Mr. Nice Guy

No more Mr. Nice Guy

Jeans makers, please note: A few of the big names among jean manufacturers are getting fed up with seeing their copyrighted trademarks and designs showing up on other parts, and at least two of them are taking out thispage add in the control of the seed of of the

More electronics in the kitchen

More electronics in the kitchen
It looks as if the '80's could be the era of total electronics
in the kitchen, at least as far as small appliances go. First
sunbeam announced its 5279 electronically controlled combination food processor, blender, and mixer, and now General
Electric Co. is introducing an electronic counter-top oven
that will retail at just under \$500. The new counter-top
cooker will feature touch pad electronic controls, electric digital readout of cooking time, temperature, and functions, an
audible signal to let the user known when it's finished, and
a cancel button, reports Retailing Home Purnishings, GE.
when the supplementation of the control of the

appliances to cook dinner by remote control as we battle traffic on the way home.

In and out again

One possible way to prevent food additives from causing problems is to make them indigestible. After years of development, a Palo Alto, Cal., firm is preparing to submit its first entry in this new field of safe food chemicals to the Food and Drug Administration, reports Science News. Druspol is working to develop preservatives, colors, and sate of foods but are never absorbed through the intestines. The first miracle compound is a preservative called Anosomer; the next to reach testing stage will be a set of food colorings. Anosomer works to prevent oxidation of food, and thus rancidity, every bit as effectively as BHT, but its molecules contrast to current preservatives, which have caused abnormalities in animal livers in laboratory tests, there has been for significant effects at any dosage level in the animal testing conducted with Anosomer. So far it has passed tests for acute, chronic, and lifetime toxicity, birth defects, reproduced, and lifetime toxicity, birth defects, reproduced have proven too large to be absorbed by humans, rats, mice, guinea pigs, and rabbits. Dynapol claims its new additive is so safe that it is asking the FDA to grant it a special speedy review, because of its advantages over the chemicals now in use.

Don't touch those cacti

Don't touch those cacti
Cactas rusters are the new villians of the Southwest Accarding to Not Man Apart, an environmental newspaper, as
worldwise fascination with acati and the willingness of collectors to ignore legal restrictions on digging them out of
the desert areas of California, New Mexico, and Arizona
could mean the imminent extinction of a number of the
rarer species. In Arizona, which has some of the stricest.
st million worth of the spiny succulents are removed from the
state illegally each year. The collectors are not only lawbreakers, they are often careless and wasteful as well. They
they are often careless and wasteful as well. They
duce, and often tear them from the ground and leave them
server of the exclust state estimates that as many as 10
species of cacti a year may disappear due to removal and
mishandling by enthusiasts. Sophisticated actual lovers could
be even more of a hazard; they know enough to seek out

the rarer, and therefore more expensive, varieties. As some species, such as the giant saguaro, face gradual extinction, the result could be disastrous to the entire ecosystem of the assumed to the surface experience of some as source of food and sheller. Although there hasn't been much of a public outery, new government programs are bing developed to try to save the desert flowers, and to attempt to control exports as well as imports.

Play it again, Sam
The average video cassette recorder owner has been characterized in a recent Neilsen survey as a "gadget prove and
convenience oriented videophile," reports Marketing and
Media Decisions. These electronics buffs are well able to
afford their addictions, with 19 per cent pulling down \$50.00
or more in annual income, and another 40 per cent checking
in at the \$25.000-plus range. Ninety-five per cent of the users
report that their purchase — \$1,000 on the average — was
report that their purchase — \$1,000 on the average — was
worthwhile, and at least 13 per cent said they plan to
"trade up" and buy another unit during the next year.
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"trade up" and the sample of the record admitting they
used their units most frequently for "faulti" movies. Almost
a third of the owners said they lend their tapes out to
friends, and a little more than a quarter report they buy
and use prerecorded tapes.

Christine Winter

Christine Winter

Arnaud de Borchgrave: 33 perilous years on the foreign beat

Egyptian brigade to witness the previously agreed-upon cease-fire to the Yom Kippur War. "Suddenly we came over a hill and there were 12 Israeli tanks," he says. "They started firing."

Hiring."

Guickly, he refreated with the Egyptians to a foxhole. "The hole was getting smaller and smaller, because the mortar shells were impacting closer and closer," he re-calls. "I said to myself, this is 1802. 2, 1973, issue of Newsweek noncheless was cooly professional, even whimsical. "I'as we emerged from our hiding places and looked on, we looked somewhat like Marcel Marceau with his white stage makeup, caked with his white stage makeup, caked worker.

en, we looses somewhat ine natures had seen and the same were in several layers of sand," he wrote.

Then there was the time the Soviet Invasion of Czechoslovakia caught De Borch-Then there was the time the Soviet Invasion of Czechoslovakia caught De Borch-Then the several times at the Czechoslovakia border in a headlong rush to reach the action, he finally found a group of Czechs willing to smuggle him into the country beneath their train senter legs very close together." he recounts "When we were at the border, Russian jackboots were six inches away from my nose."

And Rosenthal, the New York Times editor, remembers 'a very licity situations were six inches away from my nose."

And Rosenthal, the New York Times editor, remembers 'a very licity situation with the control of the second of

selep for a few hours. These are the guys who can deliver for you.

THIS IS THE SORT of pragnate thinking all foreign correspondents worth their sait seem to develop. The Tribune's James Yuenger, a friend of De Borchgare's, divulges some other professional secrets: Avoid scotch on the rocks (ice cubes made from suspect foreign water can cause mischel); for similar reasons, brush your chief; for similar reasons, brush your thinking, the professional secrets: Avoid scotch on the rocks (ice cubes made from suspect foreign water can cause mischel); for similar reasons, brush your thinking, the professional secrets: That's the key to survival. The key to success, say be Borchgrave's admirers, is counter, the second of the sec

finally did: "It delivered," he says patly,
PLAYING THE WAITING game is a
frustration that's familiar to foreign corresonders. "You can go in and see Qaddafi
in Libay (referring to Libyan strongman Col,
Mammare El Qaddafi) with a specific appointment on a specific date," he says.
"You're bept waiting for 12 days in some
horrible hotel room and told not to leave
because the phone can ring at any minute.
You go bannans in a situation like that."
Tornically, more of his best interviews
grave was invited to the Hanoi residence
of North Yels Nam's premier Pama Van
Dong. Over tea, the casually attired com-

monifies. De Borchgrave sometimes is summoned by hard-to-reach leaders to send messages to their adversaries via the pages of Newweek. Acting on a seemingly unlikely tip from an intelligence source, he once asked a virulently anit-U.S. Iraqi leader for an interview.

"I got a reply within 24 hours to come abaed, which is very unusual in that country," he says. "And it was a major break-

De Borchgrave's proudest achievement is his journalistic shuttle diplomacy between Israel and Egypt. He says that if the Israelis had heeded a 1973 interview he did with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, the Yom Kippur War might have been avoided.

through, because in that interview he was trying to warn the U.S. about Soviet de-signs throughout the Persian Gulf region."

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BUT HIS PROUDEST achievement is his journalistic shuttle diplomacy between the leaders of Israel and Egypt. He goes so far leaders of Israel and Egypt. He goes not not have been also a large through the goes to the Egyptian President Annar Sadat, the Yom Kippur War might have been avoided. "Unfortunately, Sadat had to go to war to prove how serious he was about peace," De ratelis died in vain." Body Soung Israelis deven have firmed his conviction that the Soviet Union and its Communist alleis have set a hardline corne aimed lies have set a hardline corne aimed lies have set a hardline corne aimed the sound of the set of the s

as a novel to obviate charges of McCar-hyism.

Why McCarthyism? The book chronicles the systematic infiltration of Western media and governments by Soviet agents. The au-thors insist the plot is based on fact. How-ever, if they had written it as nonfiction, they would have been forced to name they would have been forced to name the property of the property of the pro-ting of the property of the pro-ting of the property of the pro-ting of the proting of the pro-ting of th

Laves would have been destroyed, De Borchgrave maintains.

CERTAININ, THIS SEEMINGLY golden
foreign correspondent hasn't escaped criticism during his long, wandering career.

Some competitors, perhaps out of jealousy,
raal that he is much too intimate with varilarly the French; thus his reporting is said
to lose objectivity. They also charge he accepts far too many conditions to worm his
way into those highly touted interviews with
world leaders.

The some statement of the second of the second of the
had. De Borchgrave's undisputed reporting
that De Borchgrave's undisputed reporting
that and a writerly correspondent,"
Gander says. (To be sure, almost everyone
at Newswesk is a bit awed by the buildog
persistency of his newshawking, a favorite
stint in New York as foreign editor in the
1950s — keeping current with corporate gos-

sip by listening to conversations in his boast office by means of pressing his ear to a golden held against their adjoining wall.) as golden held against their adjoining wall, beadlines for supposedly accepting expensative Persian carptes from the Shah of Iran, then "Light of the Aryans, King of Kings," not a transient refugee. "A silly story." De Borchgrave says, calling his accuser "an unknown banama." He suspects the story—which he totally disclaims — was planted expensations of the supposed of the sup

John account, but a won't oiscisse us Newsweek salary.)

A GLAMOROUS LIFE, of course, doesn't automatically lead to riches. Nor does it automatically lead to riches. Nor does it graves wife, Alexandra, is his third. And, sometimes, all the frantic, pressure-packed movement can assume a tired quality, not unlike a television police drama that has played a season too long, the properties of Afghanistan last January.

"Suddenly if dawned on me that every," he says. "And I said, "My God, Armud, what the hell are you doing here?" There was something alightly ludicrous about this whole score, and it was a job for me."

Answer to Saturday Word Game

SUFFICIENCY

scenic	unct	incus
scuff	unify	incuse
since	ficin	infuse
sine	fiet	cine
sniff	fife	cuffs
sniffy	fine	cuisine
snuff	finis	cusec
snuffy	fisc	cynic
suffice	fuse	nice
syce	iffy	nisei
sync	incise	nisi

Look for another word game in next Saturday's Tribune

to figure out what to do with the "15 re-maining productive years" of his life. How to avoid getting his head shot off in some odd corner of the world? How to get peop to read the things he writes between war-the stories he considers most important? How to use all those fabulous contacts?

'How to use all those fabulous contacts' Despite persistent rumors that he is leaving Newsweek, he insists he hasn't made a firm decision. And top editors at the magarine say he is more than welcome to return, upon completion of a current sixmonth paid sabbatical. But there's a bus-book contract, and it's even said be Borchgrave is pondering the more sociate life of a political pundit, perhaps for a newspaper.

Whatever his final decisions, a change does seem in order. "I certainly don't want for the next it's pears," he says with a sigh. "That's a young man's game."



De Borchgrave with Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir: The best contacts are airline station chiefs, not foreign minister

Stuck in bed with soup and the soaps?



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COLLAR AND
MATCHING
SHORTS. 50%
POLY-50%
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MOZZIE MAGES SPOZIS